

SPORTS

Shorthanded Pacesetters dismantled by Weapons 16-1

LANCE CPL. BRIAN KESTER
STAFF WRITER

Weapons defeated the Pacesetters 16-1 in the Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina Intramural Softball league at the Parris Island Sports Complex April 8.

With an insurmountable score at the end of the fourth inning, the 15-run rule was enacted and the game was called. A deciding factor in the one-sided game was the fact that the Pacesetters were two players short of the 10 on-field positions each team has to field to be competitive.

“Anytime the other team gets 15 runs or more the game is called,” said Joseph Powers, interim coach of the Pacesetters. “We thought we were coming into the game with 10 players, but two decided not to show. Since we are in a recruiting billet, half of our team is on Temporary Assigned Duty, so not everybody was there.”

With each game that passes, Powers hopes to see his team improve and fill the gaps left by the missing players.

“Next week we play BMC and we will be looking good,” said Powers. “Later on in the season we will be even better. By then we will have had a chance to see what the players that are

missing can do, which will then bring the whole team together.”

Even though Powers has optimism on his side, the team from Weapons was brimming with confidence. Shortly after the start of the game, a Weapons player exclaimed, “The minute they showed up with only eight players they lost the game.”

That phrase rang true for the duration of the shortened game as Weapons confidence showed in their on field play.

“Even though it was our third game of the season, we haven’t really had a tough game,” said Tyler Morris, Weapons coach. “I think Range Company and Nads are going to be the tough teams to watch out for.”

Looking ahead is what Morris and his team has been doing since they began practicing for the season.

“We started practice two weeks prior to the season,” he said. “We also played in the season open tournament where we finished in third place. During that tournament we started off really rocky.”

While they may have gotten off to a rocky start, Weapons has earned a reputation by what they have achieved in the past.

“Weapons is one of the toughest teams to play,” said Powers. “Coming

in, I knew it was going to be a difficult game, but anybody has a chance to win anytime.”

Coming into the season, Morris knew that his team had some inexperienced players that he needed to mold to fit into the system. So, a lot of the practices focused on hitting and fielding skills and all of the little aspects of the game, and that work started to pay off.

“For a lot of the guys it was probably their first time playing softball,” said Morris. “I knew how to handle those kinds of players coming into it. We have gotten off to a rough start for the last two years, but we have also had winning teams for the last two years.”

Although Weapons has built a reputation as a powerhouse hitting team, Morris sees room for improvement.

“We still have a lot of stuff to work on,” said Morris. “We have a lot of bonehead things going on. I mean mental errors, where people are not covering bags or hitting the cutoff men. Those are the little things that are going to kill you when you come up against a better team.”

Weapons will take on Nads at 6 p.m., while the Pacesetters will face 4th Bn. at 8 p.m., both games will be held at the Parris Island Sports Complex.



Lance Cpl. Brian Kester
Tyler Morris, Weapons coach and pitcher, tosses the ball to the plate during a game against the Pacesetters at the Parris Island Sports Complex April 8. Weapons defeated the Pacesetters 16-1.

Air Station grounds 1st Bn.; Clothing hung out to dry



Lance Cpl. Justin J. Shemanski
Steven Fettas, player for 1st Bn., awaits the ball hit over the net by Michael Schwegman, an Air Station player, during a game played at the War Memorial Gym April 7.

LANCE CPL. JUSTIN J. SHEMANSKI
STAFF WRITER

Air Station defeated 1st Bn. 25-17, 27-25 in Tri-Command intramural volleyball play at the Parris Island War Memorial Gym April 7.

Starting off slow, the second place 1st Bn. could not keep up with the continuous spikes and blocks by first place Air Station. But through teamwork and more aggressive play they were able to catch up to Air Station in the second game and were only narrowly defeated.

“We played loose tonight, that’s all there is to it,” said Ernie Chavis, coach and player of 1st Bn. “We were also missing a player, so we had to try to make up for that factor as well. Air Station’s

jump-serves really hurt us to.”

1st Bn. went into game two with a bit more momentum than the first and stayed neck and neck with Air Station until the end, only losing by two points.

“They played a great game tonight,” said Robert Koch, an Air Station player. “Air Station played great too though. We were very close tonight as a team, got the job done and finished the season with a great record.”

In the coming week, the end of the season tournament will kick off and Air Station seems ready for the challenge of maintaining their undefeated record.

“I think if we play like we have been throughout the season, we will finish pretty well,” said Koch. “It’ll be good competition. There are a few teams that will be tougher to beat though. Those guys we just played tonight [1st Bn.] and Band 1,” Koch said.

Air Station must go up against these teams again in the tournament before they can be named the champions.

“They’ve both had great seasons and will be a challenge, but no matter what happens during the tournament we’re just here to play and have fun,” he said.

Clothing hung out to dry by Band 1, 25-19, 25-10
Volleyball action continues April 7 as Band 1 defeated Clothing 25-19, 25-10 in Tri-

Command intramural volleyball play at Parris Island’s War Memorial Gym.

With teamwork and aggressive play, Band 1 kept a hold of their third place spot in the standings as they blasted a continuous barrage of serves and spikes toward Clothing.

“We did pretty well tonight,” said Dwayne King, Band 1 player. “We didn’t have all our players with us this evening, but we still came out, played a relaxed game and had fun.”

“The league offers some great competition and Band 1 is really looking forward to competing in the tournament next week,” he said.

The playoff tournament starts next week and Band 1’s outlook towards the competition is similar to that of the Air Stations – confident.

“We should do really well, we’ve learned a lot playing together this year and have become more confident players with a more aggressive playing style,” said King. “The tournament is going to be a good time.”

Regular season play is almost over for this year, but the end of the season tournament is just about to begin. The double elimination tournament is slated to begin at Parris Island’s War Memorial Gym at 6 p.m. April 13.

HIV,

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that presents a lot more opportunities.”

Very often, this age group has not yet matured and takes a lot of risks because of it, said Rodriguez.

“Young adolescents are at a higher level of risk because they are starting to experiment with their sexuality,” said Rodriguez. “From the ages of 15 to the mid-20’s is when you are more susceptible of [contracting] a sexually transmitted disease.”

Even though the focus may be primarily military, this month of awareness is intended for anyone who can be affected by STDs.

“All over the U.S. there are high rates of STDs, with Chlamydia being the highest,” said Worley. “People really need to be aware of the fact that some of these STDs are permanent (Herpes, HIV and AIDS) and some of them are devastating to your system. They need to protect themselves and if they are not aware, they need to find the resources and investigate.”

Worley insists that people need to be proactive by informing themselves as to what these diseases are and how to prevent them from happening.

“If they don’t know how to use protection, then there are resources to help them,” he said. “They can come to us and we can give classes, or they can go to www.cdc.gov, where there is a sexually transmitted diseases link that has a plethora of information. The Center for Disease Control is a government Web site and is the ultimate authority for diseases in general. They are the ones who put out the STD guidelines that we follow.”

While having access to information helps people remain informed, Worley insists that people come to the clinic to verify any suspicions.

“People should never self diagnose, it is a bad idea,” said Worley. “Do a conscience check, if you think that there is the possibility that you may have an STD then you should come in to be seen. The reason that it is important is that there are STDs that you can have that you may not know that you have. For example a woman may have Chlamydia, but have no symptoms and not know that she has it; it can spread to other systems in her body and cause permanent damage.”

For sick call appointments call 228-2876 or 228-2811. For more information regarding STD’s/HIV call, BMC Preventative medicine at 228-2806 or call NHB 228-5566.